

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1602615404

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Springdale				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Ashton (Brighton)				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Ellis W. Manning				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Ashton			STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a 2-1/2 story, stuccoed house with a two story portico now extending across the main (west) facade. The facade is three bays with three dormers. The end walls have arched windows on either side of the internal end chimneys; the boxed cornice is returned to suggest pediments; the dormers have similar returns. To the rear, a lean-to may be the older part of the house. The foundation is stone; the house is brick under the stucco.

The interior mantels are simple, with mouldings supporting the shelves. In the hall is an arched built-in cupboard. The staircase is U-shaped, with two ballusters per tread.

There is a brick smokehouse, a springhouse, the foundation for a stone barn, and the foundation of another house on the side.

1418-88

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Farquhar, the house was built by Thomas Lea, Sr., of Walnut Hill for his son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Deborah Lea, in 1837-8. The younger couple had lived on the property in the house of Nathaniel Porter, a cooper, before the present house was built. The Leas were prominent in the agricultural circle of Montgomery County, Deborah, being the first person in the county to preserve successfully, applesauce, and Edward owning one of the first thrashing machines in the County. He was active in the Sandy Spring Farmers' Club and several business enterprises.

The older part of the present house (the lean-to) may be the Porter house referred to above (C. Owens).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M. 15-35

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earquhar, Roger Brooke, Old Homes and History of
Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington, D.C.:
Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1962, pp. 286-8

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 3/16/73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Garden until 1937 when Hollywood was sold.

Douglas Howard Riggs, son of Samuel and Laura (Howard) Riggs was born at "The Oaks" on November 28, 1884, near Laytonsville, Montgomery County. He married Chloe W. Lansdale in November 1911 at Olney. Chloe was born in February 1888 at Triadelphia. She was the daughter of Thomas F. and Eliza Strain Lansdale.

Their four children were born at the big farm they called "Hollywood," now renamed "Bon Secours" by the present owners.

In 1937 they sold the farm and settled at "Spring Garden," the home of James and Phoebe Stabler. They have four sons, Douglas H. Riggs, Jr., an officer with Thomas Oysters Associates (Surveyors), married to Margaret Riggs White; Robert Darrington Riggs, married to Louisa Griffith White, and owner of Damascus Fuel Company; Thomas Franklin Riggs, married to Grace India Downey and associated with Ligon & Ligon, Inc., Baltimore contractors; and John Hamilton Riggs, who is un-

married and in the U.S. Navy. Their one daughter, Katharine Lansdale Riggs was married to J. Justus Meyer, Jr., on August 19, 1939.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer live in the village of Sandy Spring and Mr. Meyer is employed at Ft. Meade.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Riggs celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on November 18, 1961.

The frame house, brick-nogged and later weatherboarded, has a number of details which indicate its age, although it is sound and in excellent condition. One enters the front hall which has a fireplace with a soapstone back and the date 1818 carved in it. The front door is a primitive batten door with a strong bar across the inside, and strap hinges as long as the door is wide. The stair is a winding one. The mantel is Colonial in type, and chair rails surround the rooms. The other doors are panelled. The floorboards are wide without tongue-and-groove and put down with hand-made nails. In an extension is a large Colonial fireplace with a crane.

Springdale

THE attractive brick house is a familiar landmark on the east side of the road from Ashton to Brighton. For more than a century it was the home of the Lea family. The house, with four two-story columns, stands back about 200 yards from the highway, and is nearly concealed by large trees which flank the driveway. In the lawn near the front porch two ancient box trees about fifteen feet in height are no doubt at least one hundred years old.

In the story of Walnut Hill we find that Thomas Lea, Sr., and Elizabeth, his wife, came from Wilmington, Delaware, in the spring of 1823 to settle in that brick house high on the hill just north of the Hawlings River. Their son, Edward, born in Wilmington in 1814, married Deborah Peirce, born in Philadelphia in 1816, the daughter of Joshua and Hanna Peirce. Thomas Lea, Sr., built the Springdale house for the young couple in 1837-1838. They were married in 1836-7, and before moving to the new house they lived in a cottage on the farm which had been the home of Nathaniel Porter. Porter was a cooper, the grandfather of Charles G.

Porter, a shrewd banker and business man of Ashton. (See The Highlands.)

The land on which the house is situated was from parts of Charley Forest and parts of Addition to Brooke Grove. For fifty years Edward and Deborah Lea spent busy lives at the beautiful secluded spot where they did many things to advance the arts and science of horticulture and of farm and household economy. They adapted themselves to the very primitive conditions of farm life in vogue in the early nineteenth century. Soon after the Ladies' Association was organized in 1857, (the first woman's organization of its kind in the country, and still meeting regularly), Deborah Lea announced to the group that she had successfully preserved applesauce in sealed jars for winter use by stewing it, and sealing the jars. Dried fruits were in common use before that time.

Edward Lea had one of the first threshing machines in Montgomery County, which he purchased from Edward Jessup, of York, Pennsylvania, the father-in-law of Arthur B. Farquhar. It replaced threshing with flails or by

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NO. 108 E-10 THOMAS LEA 1837-'38 BRICK

treading out the grain with horses driven around the barn floor. This new device had two cylinders with teeth upon their periphery. They were rotated by gearing driven by four horses hitched to arms traveling in an endless circle. This outfit was taken from farm to farm around the neighborhood.

Edward was the oldest member and an organizer of the Sandy Spring Farmers' Club in 1844, one of the first such clubs south of the Mason & Dixon Line, and still an active organization. He was one of the incorporators of the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring and the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County in 1848. For many years he was a most appreciated and progressive member of the Horticultural Society, reaching out for better ways of doing things in home and farm.

At Springdale over a century ago water was carried from the spring, and cooking was done over coals with skillets having handles three feet long. Coals were carried from house to house, matches then being unknown in the community. Bread and pies were baked in ovens once a week, and candles were "dipped" annually. Kerosene came into use about 1860, and cost \$1.20 per gallon. All pork and beef meats were pickled or dried for winter use, and milk was kept in the spring house where butter was churned for the family or for sale. All soap was homemade. Cottage cheese and "bonny clabber" were choice parts of the family diet.

A hired hand was paid regularly eight to nine dollars per month, and given housing, an allowance of meat, flour, meal, a garden, and his own poultry. An extra hand was paid fifteen to twenty-five cents per day. A faithful woman, Eliza Bacon, worked for Deborah Lea for thirty years for three dollars per month. A good man

would cut a cord of wood and rack it up for forty-five cents per cord, and the wood was sold for about one dollar per cord. Cider was made by the barrel, and mostly sold for vinegar. The cash income of the family, in addition to stock and crops sold, came from the sale of poultry, butter, cheese, eggs, and cream taken to the city two or three times per month. The arduous conditions under which the Leas lived were endured with courage, resolution, and cheerfulness.

The will of Edward Lea left his wife a life estate in Springdale farm, then containing 120 acres, and provided that it go to his son, Walter, and daughter, Helen, after the death of the mother. Thomas J., his son, was left a limestone quarry in Howard County as a "a token," having before received twenty-six acres of the farm.

Walter Lea left the farm and spent most of his life in the north, and Thomas J. Lea, his brother, came to Springdale after his marriage, farming the place for a number of years. Thomas married, first, Fannie A. Gover, daughter of Samuel G. and Rachel Gover of Virginia, and brought his bride to Springdale from Waterford in a wagon drawn by a "spanking" pair of black mules. Secondly, Thomas J. married Anna Gilpin Willson, and lived in a house on the acreage given him by his father. He called this place Argyle.

As a young boy about 1850, Thomas J. Lea carried the mail twice per week on horseback from Sandy Spring and Ashton through Brighton and Brookeville to Triadelphia and Unity, and back. He was then a very small lad, and rode a very large horse named "Bob." As the mail appeared in view, it was said of the pair, "Here comes old Bob with a fly riding him."

Thomas J. Lea grew up under conditions described here and endured great hardships and arduous physical labor for most of his life. He died in 1937 at the age of ninety-nine, and his long life may have been due to his rigorous, strenuous existence, and abstemious habits of life. The author vividly recalls seeing him trudging along with a six-foot hickory staff behind a drove of stock, leaving the Fair Grounds at Rockville through the dust and crowds just as darkness was shutting down, to drive the stock the fifteen miles back to his farm near Brighton. He was buried at Woodside cemetery in the soil upon which he was born.

Miss Helen Lea, the daughter of Edward and Deborah Lea, spent her entire life at Springdale. Born in 1840, she worshipped her lovely home, cultivating a few close friendships and enriching her surroundings with flowers and evergreens. She capably managed the big farm until quite advanced in age. She died in March, 1934, at the age of ninety-four years.

In December, 1905, Walter Lea, then living in Rutherford, New Jersey, conveyed his half-share in Springdale to his wife, Lucy Snowden Lea. She later became the wife of William W. Moore, and they lived in Ashton for a few years, both passing some years ago. A daughter of Walter and Lucy Lea, Miss Doris Lea has lived for years in the Ashton home where her mother had lived.

Miss Helen Lea's will was probated in April, 1934. In it she devised various family pieces of

furniture to nephews, and left her half-interest in Springdale to her nephew, Snowden Ellicott Lea, the son of her brother Walter, provided that he would pay the cost of administration, her funeral expenses, and an indebtedness she had incurred. In October the same year, S. Ellicott Lea sold thirty acres of the old home with the brick house to Ellis W. Manning. About seventy-five acres of the original farm remained to Lucy (Lea) Moore and descended to her daughter, Doris, upon the death of Mrs. Moore a few years ago.

Ellis Manning, who is engaged in general Federal tax practices, married Miss Lucy M. Rains. They have greatly beautified the grounds and the interior of the house, which they have decorated with taste, and in which modern plumbing and heating have been installed.

Stanmore



NO. 107 E-9 FRANCIS MILLER 1858 FRAME

IN retrospect, the historic background of the old home shown above seems in one's imagination to be pervaded by the shade of Benjamin Hallowell. The house was built a century ago on land which he owned and gave to a son-in-law for a school. And Hallowell's great influence, begun in this neighborhood in 1820, has continued through his children and still survives through his many descendants, who revere his name and recall his great worth.

For over thirty years, Professor Hallowell's Alexandria School for Boys, called "Brimstone Academy," was a notable one, and Henry Clay

Hallowell, son of Benjamin, and his son-in-law, Francis Miller, assisted the Professor. Francis had married Caroline Hallowell in 1852, and in 1858 Benjamin gave Miller thirty acres of his Rockland farm; the house shown was erected and the boys' school started. The name Stanmore was taken from a Kirk homestead near York, Pennsylvania. Benjamin Hallowell lectured at Stanmore a century ago, his subjects including one on "The Atom," and another on "Electricity."

In 1867 Miller turned the school over to his wife Caroline, who operated a popular girls' school at Stanmore for eleven years until it was succeeded by another school at Rockland in 1878, managed by Henry Clay Hallowell. Francis then went to Washington, studied law, and was admitted to practice before the D. C. and Maryland bars in 1869. Miller attained considerable eminence in his profession. He was assistant district attorney in the District of Columbia.

The girls who attended the Stanmore school came from many parts of the country, many of them daughters of prominent people. Among them was a niece of President Grant. The President drove out occasionally to bring the young lady to Washington for week-ends. Another young scholar was Margaret Ann Higgins, from Rockville, who later became the wife of Wil-

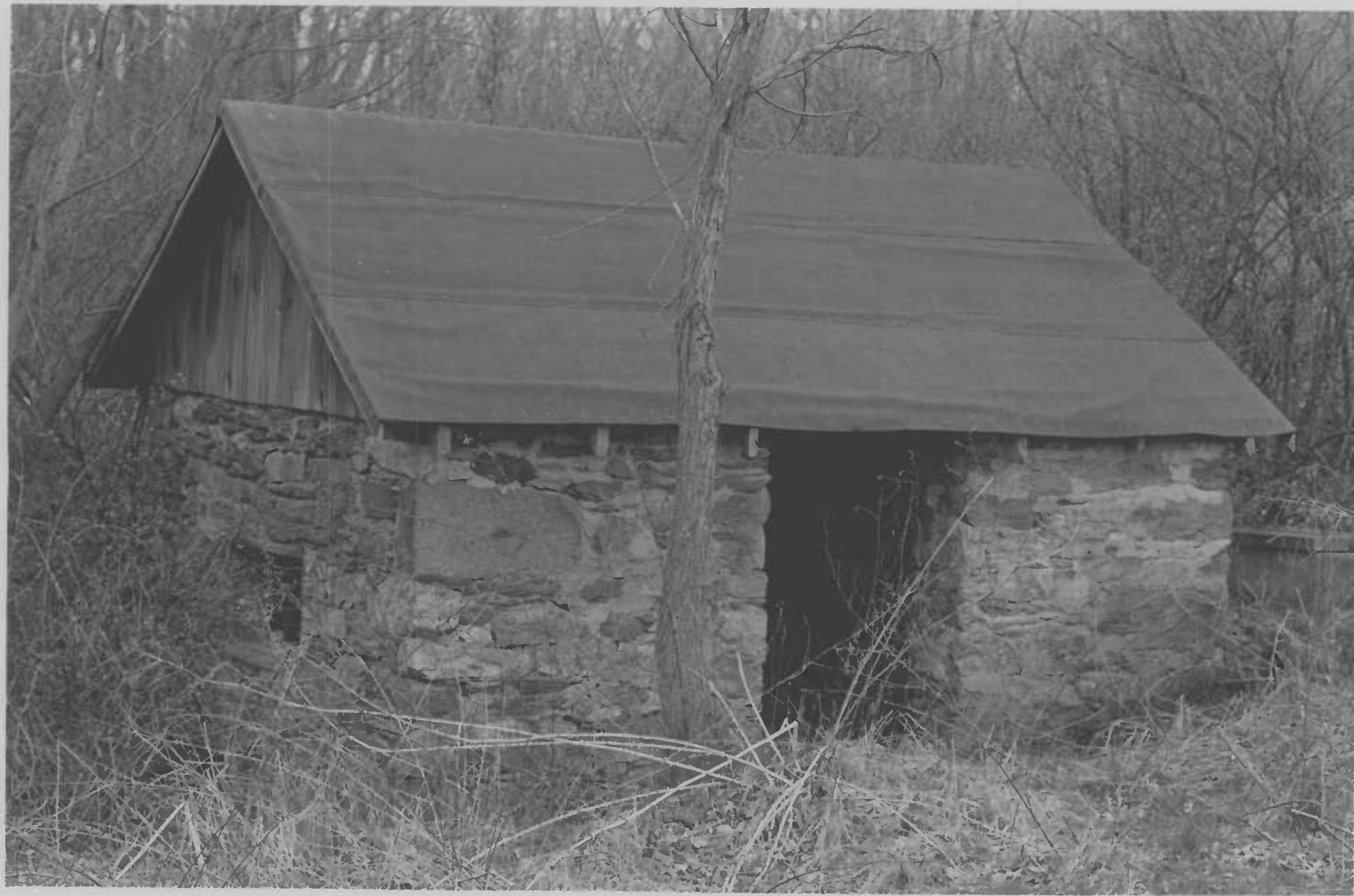


NAME SPRINGDALE

LOCATION N.H. AVE. ASHTON, Md. (BRINKLOW)

FACADE N.W.

PHOTO TAKEN 3/16/73 M. DWYER



NAME SPRINGDALE - SPRINGHOUSE

LOCATION ~~PL 118~~ ASHTON, Md (BRINKLOW)
N.H. AVE.

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 3/16/73 M. DWYER



NAME SPRINGDALE

LOCATION N. H. AVE. BRINKLOW (ASHTON) Md.

FACADE S. W.

PHOTO TAKEN 3/16/73 M. DWYER